

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health
Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Sheila Pomeroy

DATE: November 12, 2004

RE: Access to General Medical Care by Adults with Serious Mental Illness

This week's PIP focuses on an interest in access to general health care for adults with serious mental illness that has been a concern of the PIP project since 1997¹. Our continued interest is part of a growing concern of interest in the health status of the mentally ill. The Surgeon General's Report on Mental Illness, for instance, recognized, "...the inextricably intertwined relationship between our mental health and our physical health and well-being."²

Rates of utilization of physical health services were measured for individuals served by Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) Programs for adults with serious mental illness during FY2004 who were covered by the State's Medicaid program. (More than 80% of CRT clients were covered by Medicaid during FY2004.) The measure of access to general health care used in this analysis was evidence of at least one physician visit that was reimbursed by Medicaid. The analysis used a direct linkage of Medicaid claims files for CMHC services and Medicaid claims files for physician visits. The use of administrative data for this analysis also made it possible to determine the rate at which other adults enrolled in the state's Medicaid program had physician visits during the same year.

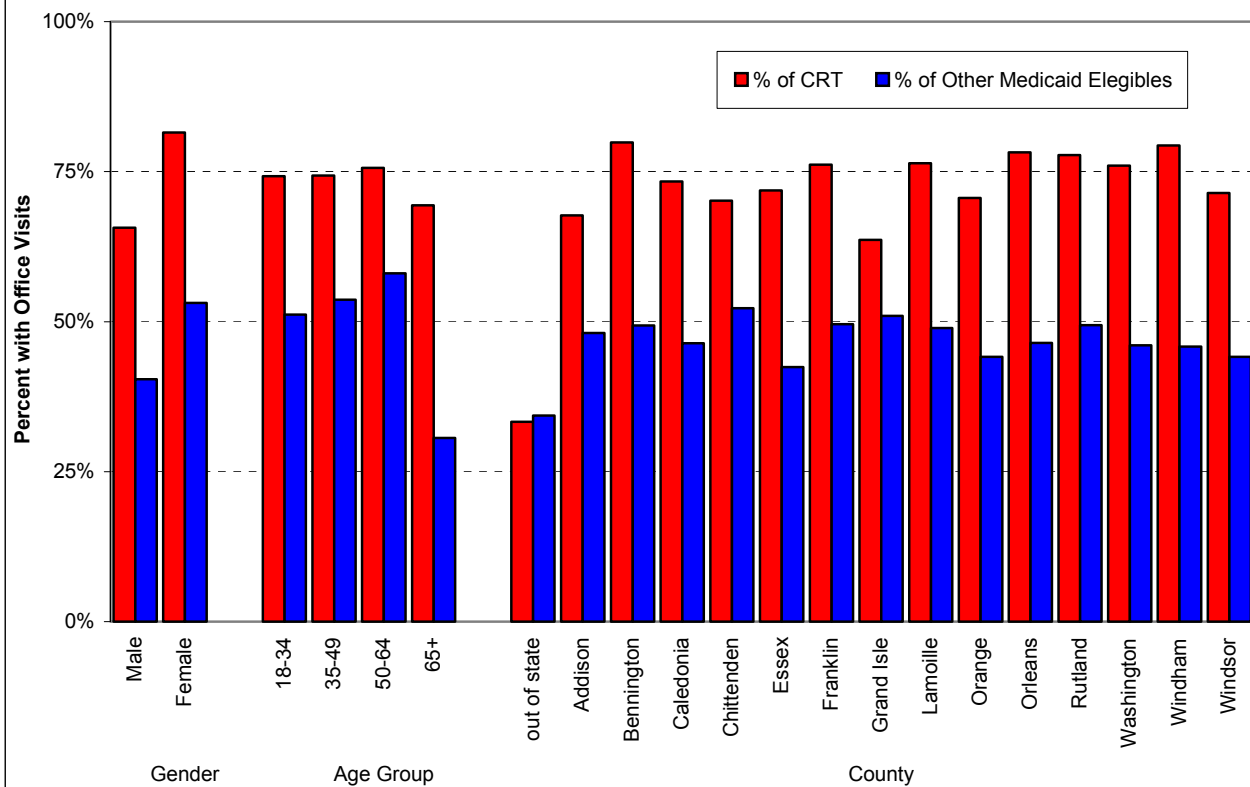
As you will see, almost three quarters (74%) of these CRT clients had at least one Medicaid reimbursed doctor's visit during the year. Women had greater access to medical care than men (82% vs. 66%, respectively) and doctor visits were less common among CRT clients 65 years of age and older. (This may be related to Medicare coverage among older clients). In every case, CRT clients were substantially more likely than other Medicaid enrollees to have a physician visit during the year.

We look forward to your questions and suggestions for further analysis of these data to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

¹ Pandiani and Schacht (July 16, 1997) Access to Medical Care – Part I. VT PIP
www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/1997/pip071697.pdf
and Pandiani and Schacht (July 23, 1997) Access to Medical Care – Part II. VT PIP
www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/1997/pip072397.pdf

² US Department of Health and Human Services. Mental Health: A report of the Surgeon General. Rockville MD: Us Department of Health and Human Services, Substance and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health, 1999. p. v.
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/mentalhealth/home.html>

Doctors' Office Visits For CRT and other Medicaid Service Recipients: FY 2004



	CRT			Other Medicaid Eligibles			Relative Utilization
	Total	Office Visit		Total	Office Visit		
		number	percent		number	percent	
Total	2,602	1,931	74%	112,494	53,939	48%	1.5
<u>Gender</u>							
Male	1,199	787	66%	45,899	18,543	40%	1.6
Female	1,403	1,144	82%	66,595	35,396	53%	1.5
<u>Age Group</u>							
18-34	532	395	74%	40,291	20,609	51%	1.5
35-49	1,075	799	74%	30,051	16,120	54%	1.4
50-64	747	565	76%	15,655	9,089	58%	1.3
65+	248	172	69%	26,497	8,121	31%	2.3
<u>County</u>							
out of state	3	1	33%	533	183	34%	1.0
Addison	124	84	68%	5,753	2,769	48%	1.4
Bennington	169	135	80%	7,578	3,741	49%	1.6
Caledonia	139	102	73%	7,148	3,318	46%	1.6
Chittenden	526	369	70%	19,129	9,996	52%	1.3
Essex	32	23	72%	1,710	725	42%	1.7
Franklin	172	131	76%	9,215	4,568	50%	1.5
Grand Isle	11	7	64%	1,197	610	51%	1.2
Lamoille	106	81	76%	4,699	2,299	49%	1.6
Orange	126	89	71%	5,121	2,261	44%	1.6
Orleans	193	151	78%	7,910	3,673	46%	1.7
Rutland	270	210	78%	13,647	6,742	49%	1.6
Washington	396	301	76%	10,134	4,664	46%	1.7
Windham	97	77	79%	7,659	3,510	46%	1.7
Windsor	238	170	71%	11,061	4,880	44%	1.6

Service recipients are adults with serious mental illness served by designated community agencies. Analysis is based on extracts from the Vermont Medicaid Database. CRT service recipients are selected based on coverage type = 63. Office visits are selected based on procedure codes = 99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99211, 99212, 99213, 99214, and 99215.